

Organic Handling Facilities

Organic Certification Program



See Also:

- What Is Organic?
- Organic Production in Montana
- National Organic Program
- Organic Crop Production
- Organic Livestock Production
- Organic Handling Facilities
- Organic Certification
- How to be Certified
- Converting to Organic Production
- Sources of Organic Information

For more information, contact:

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Definition

An **Organic Handling Operation** receives or acquires and processes, packages or stores an agricultural product.

Handling Requirements

All materials used in handling organic products must be organic or on approved materials list.

Pest Management

- Practices
 - Sanitation
 - Exclusion
 - Management of Environmental Conditions
- Controls
 - Mechanical or Physical Devices
 - Lures or repellents (approved list)
 - Approved Pesticides

Product Integrity

Organic handling operations implement procedures to **prevent commingling** of organic and non-organic products and to **prevent contact with prohibited substances**.

Labeling

- **Organic** is a legal term whose use is governed by the NOP and which may be used only on products produced according to the NOP rule.
- Four categories of Organic Labeling
 - **"100% Organic"**
 - Product must be 100% organic by weight or volume, excluding water and salt
 - May display USDA and/or Certifier's Seal
 - **"Organic"**
 - Product must be at least 95% organic by weight or volume, excluding water and salt
 - Remaining (5%) ingredients must be organic or appear on approved list, unless organic ingredient is not commercially available
 - May display USDA and/or Certifier's Seal
 - **"Made with Organic Ingredients"**
 - Product must be at least 70% organic by weight or volume, excluding water and salt
 - No ingredients may be produced using excluded methods
 - May NOT display USDA Seal
 - **"Contains Organic Ingredient(s)"**
 - May only identify the specific organic ingredients and total organic content (%) on the information panel
 - May NOT display USDA or Certifier's Seal